United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry

180 Canfield Street
Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3410 (NA-07-03)
Date: October 19, 2006

Subject: 2006 Emerald Ash Borer Detection Survey Results

To: Kathleen Morse, Forest Supervisor
Allegheny National Forest

In October of this year, Tom Elliott of Forest Health Protection (FHP), Morgantown, conducted an emerald ash borer (EAB) detection survey of seven sites throughout the forest. Though trap trees (destructive sampling) are now generally used for EAB surveys, we used visual inspections in this survey. We are happy to report that no emerald ash borer was detected. The accompanying maps and table provide information and the locations of the sampled sites.

Survey sites were chosen using data provided by ANF personnel. The areas chosen were all recreational sites that are used for or have been used for overnight camping. Since firewood is considered the primary mode of movement for this insect this was seen as the most likely location for introduction. Future assessments will center on targeted surveys of other potential points of introduction. For this survey fifty foot buffer areas were designated around campsites, trail heads and roads, these areas were visually surveyed by walking transects through these areas, in addition ten ash trees (declining trees if found) at each site were selected for close inspection. Since traps and attractants for adults are not yet available this method will continue to be used until other non-destructive methods are developed.

Emerald ash borer (EAB) (Buprestidae: *Agrilus planipennis*) is an exotic pest of ash (*Fraxinus* spp.). Feeding by the larval stage of this beetle occurs in the inner bark and phloem. Larval feeding damages a trees ability to move food and water leading to crown dieback and decline. Trees die after several years of repeated attacks. Attacks can occur on small (1-2 inch diameter) to large diameter trees. Newly infested trees may appear healthy and have no visible symptoms of attack. Detection of EAB in these trees is difficult. More established infestations, those with larvae present for 1-3 years, are likely to be associated with dead and declining trees and visible signs of infestation, including thin crowns, vertical bark splits, dead and dying branches and epicormic sprouting. D-shaped exit holes can be found the year after the initial attacks. Woodpecker activity on a tree can indicate an infestation. Because first-year infestations can be difficult to ascertain, visual surveys that target older infestations are more likely to be successful. This can be accomplished by focusing on declining and recently killed ash trees. If EAB populations have been established in an area for several years, local ash decline and tree mortality are likely.

The purposes of this detection survey were to:

- Locate any existing EAB infestations.
- Identify and survey the most likely areas for EAB introduction and establishment.
- Provide a format for reporting and recording both positive and negative EAB detections

Even though EAB has not been detected on the Forest, it is important that field-going personnel continue to monitor for evidence of EAB and other insect and disease organisms and report this information to the Morgantown Field Office. As part of our continuing monitoring efforts for next year, we plan to identify new sites and revisit sites that have the highest likelihood of becoming infested these areas will include campgrounds, trailheads, and other highly visited areas. Sites with a low likelihood (no overnight camping, no ash, etc) will be excluded.

The ANF should be planning for the arrival of the EAB. Forest Health Protection staff can assisted the forest in the development of these plans, provide training and other resources. It is recommended that the ANF begin these discussions and layout a strategy for dealing with this exotic insect before it is detected. Since firewood is considered the primary mode of movement for this and other insect pest the ANF should be considering a restriction or ban on the movement of firewood into the Forest.

I personally would also like to extend my appreciation to your staff for their assistance with this survey. If you or any of your staff have questions or comments regarding this survey, please contact Richard Turcotte or Ann Steketee at (304) 285-1503.

Sincerely,

JOHN W. HAZEL
Field Representative
Morgantown Field Office

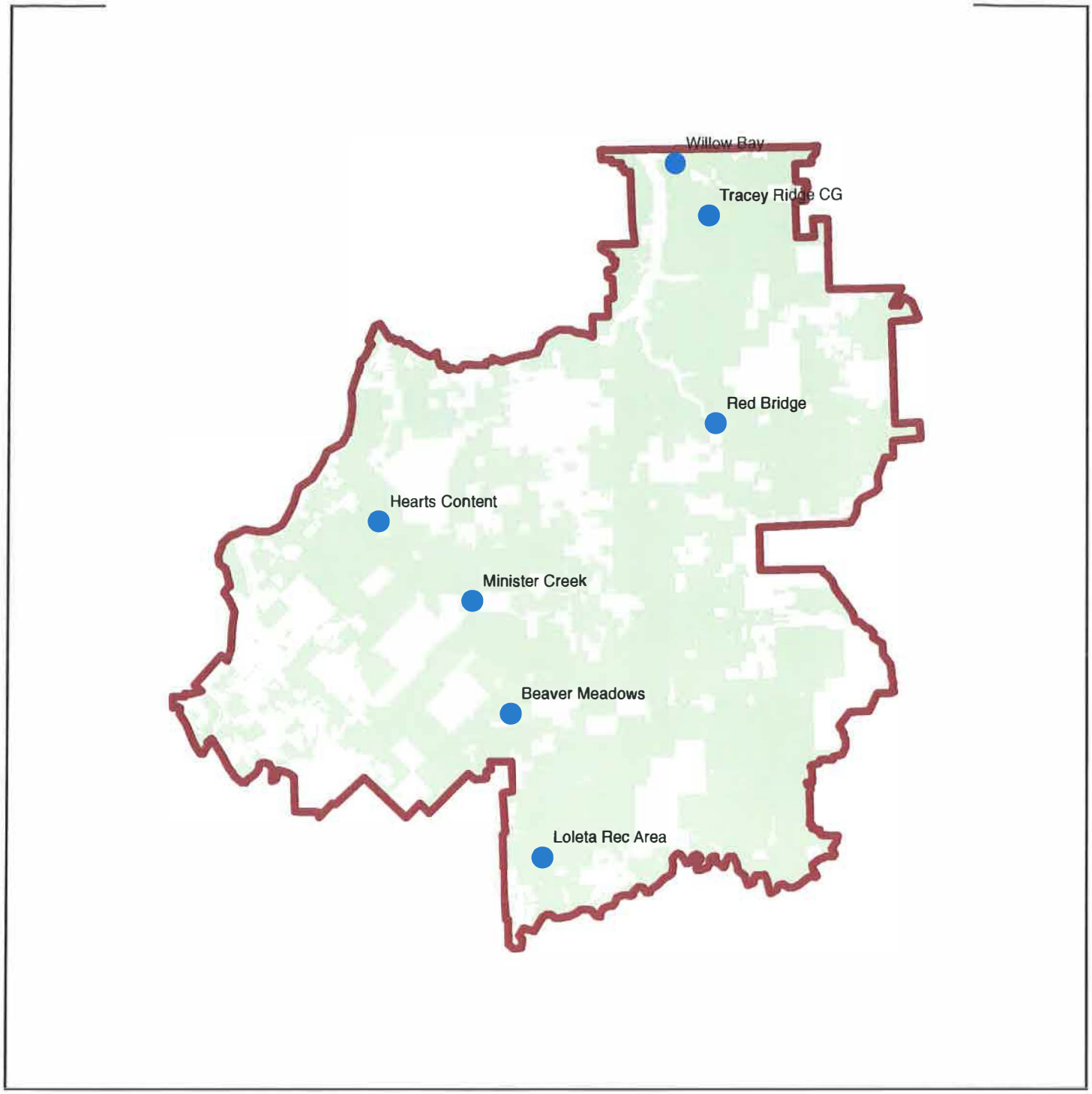
Cc: District Ranger, Bradford RD
District Ranger, Marienville/Ridgeway RD
Bob White, Forest Silviculturist

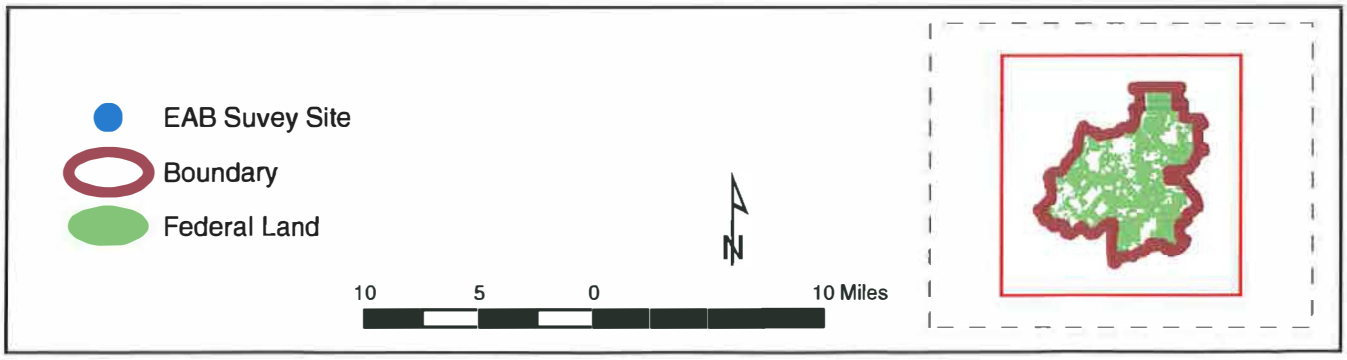
RMT/AKS

Table 1. ***Allegheny National Forest detection survey information, October 2006.***

DATE	ST	COUNTY	LOCATION	COMMENTS
10/06/06	PA	McKean	Tracy Ridge Rec. Area	No Ash found at site
10/06/06	PA	McKean	Willow Bay Rec. Area	
10/05/06	PA	Forest	Minister Creek Campground	Few Ash
10/05/06	PA	Warren	Hearts Content Rec. Area	Numerous Ash
10/0506	PA	Forest	Beaver Meadow Rec. Area	Few Ash
10/05/06	PA	Elk	Loleta Rec. Area	Few Ash
10/06/06	PA	McKean	Red Bridge Rec. Area	

Stands Surveyed for EAB October 2006





AKS
10/06